

That's how they work.
They drink beer with you,
smoke your dope,
eat your old lady's cooking
and play with your kids.
Then they turn you in
and look down their nose at you
when your stupid ass
is dragged off to jail."
He looks at me for a moment
with a vacant expression
and says, "You wanna go outside
and burn one?"

EXORCISM

I'm living in this roach-
infested broiler oven
down in central Florida.
There's a fool
next door who's either
praying out in the hall
with one of the brethren
from his fundamentalist church
or waking me up at 3 or 4
in the morning screaming
at his wife about how
she's fucking up her life.
Her parents came by today
while he was at work.
They took her, the baby
and a few of her things
and drove off.
He trashed the apartment
when he found them gone
and cried and carried on
something pitiful
when the cops hauled
his ass off to jail.
The old man who lives below
laughed and yelled
as they pulled away,
"The Lord works in mysterious ways."